

Momordica dioica Roxb. in Willd. sp. R. IV
605, Wight Ic. H 505, 506 - Plants 453 and 454

P 1133, 1134, 1135 ^{Indian Medicinal Plants} by kirtikar Basu

Dioecious, perennial, with tuberous roots; stem slender, branched, furrowed, glabrous and shining. Tendrils simple elongate, striate, glabrous. Leaves membranous, broadly ovate in outline, variable, 3.8-10 ^{by} 3.2-8 cm cordate at the base, glabrous, minutely punctate, entire or more or less deeply 3-5-lobed, the lobes triangular, ovate or oblong, distantly ^edenticulate; petioles 1-3 - 4.5 cm long.
Channelled above, pubescent, eglandular,

Male flowers:- Peduncle ~~solitary~~ solitary. 1-flowered. 3.8 - 12.5 cm long. Slender, angled, usually pubescent near the top, otherwise glabrous; bract cucullate, ~~is~~ inserted a little below the flower and enclosing it, orbicular-reniform 1.3 - 2 cm broad, usually pubescent on both sides, strongly nerved, often ciliolate, calyx-labes distant, 5-8 mm long, linear-lanceolate, ~~petals~~ 1.3-2.5 cm long, wholly yellow, oblong lanceolate.

Female flowers:- Peduncles nearly as long as those of the male usually with a small bract near the base. Ovary clothed with long soft papillae. Fruit 2.5-6.3 cm long ~~xxx~~ ellipsoid, shortly beaked, densely echinate with soft spines. Seeds many 1 cm long, broadly ellipsoid, slightly compressed. Slightly and irregularly corrugated, enclosed in a red pulp.

Distribution :- Throu^{out} India to Ceylon ascending to 5,000 ft in the Himalaya-Malaya.

1. Fruited variety- The roots are used with benefit in head troubles, urinary calculi; as an emmenagogue in jaundice - The leaves are aphrodisiac, ~~ant~~ anthelmintic, cure 'tridosha' fever, consumption asthma, bronchitis, hiccup, piles. The fruit is pungent, bitter hot, alexiteric, stomachic, laxative, cures "Vata, biliousness, asthma, leprosy, bronchitis, fever, tumours, ^{urinary discharges, excessive salivation} tridosha, troubles of the heart. ~~xxxxxx~~

Fruitless variety:- The root is useful in all kinds of poisoning including snake-bite, and in elephantiasis - The plant is bitter, pungent, hot; Vulnerary; cures kapha diseases of the blood, the eye, the heart, heals ulcers; cure erysipelas, bronchitis, snake-bite (Ayurveda)

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